

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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P 221528Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9033

C O N F I D E N T I A L WARSAW 8238

EXDIS

FOR EUR - ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4

TAGS: PROP, PL

SUBJECT: BRZEZINSKI-GRIFFITH LETTER TO THE SECRETARY OF OCTOBER
31, 1975

REF: WARSAW 8236

1. THERE FOLLOWS THE TEXT OF THE STATEMENT OF POLITICAL COUNSELOR
ALFRED P. BRAINARD, DATED DECEMBER 2, 1975, WITH REGARD TO THE
ACCOUNT ENCLOSED WITH SUBJECT LETTER OF THE LUNCHEON OF SEP-
TEMBER 19, 1975.

2. BEGIN TEXT: A. THE CONVERSATION WITH KISIELEWSKI OF
SEPTEMBER 19 OPENED WITH MY RECALLING THAT I HAD MET HIM IN
WARSAW DURING MY LAST TOUR, AND THAT HE HAD VISITED ME AT THE
DEPARTMENT OF STATE IN 1974. I RECOUNTED THAT IT HAD GIVEN

ME PLEASURE TO TAKE A SMALL ROLE IN ARRANGING HIS TOUR. WE
TALKED ABOUT HIS TRIP AND SOME OF THE PEOPLE HE HAD SEEN,
INCLUDING MUTUAL FRIENDS. IN CONNECTION WITH ONE NAME, I
RECALLED THAT KISIELEWSKI AND MY FRIEND HAD A GOOD
FRIEND IN COMMON, DIRECTOR JAN NOWAK OF RFE. I ASKED
WHAT KISIELEWSKI THOUGHT OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF RFE'S
BROADCASTING TO POLAND. I NOTED THAT THERE WAS SOME
CONCERN THAT RFE WAS LOSING ROUND WITH THE POLISH
AUDIENCE UNDER THIRTY. KISIELEWSKI STOUTLY DEFENDED
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RFE'S PRESENT EFFECTIVENESS. CONVERSATIONALLY, AND

IN CONNECTION WITH HIS FRIENDSHIP WITH DIRECTOR NOWAK, I ASKED KISIELEWSKI WHETHER HE HAD HEARD THAT THE DIRECTOR HAD BEEN ACCUSED BY A CDU NEWSPAPER IN WEST GERMANY OF HAVING BEEN A "LEGAL RECEIVER OF JEWISH PROPERTY" IN 1940, AND THAT DIRECTOR NOWAK HAD ADMITTED THIS IN A SIGNED ARTICLE IN ANOTHER GERMAN NEWSPAPER, BUT HAD ASSERTED THAT THIS HAD BEEN BECAUSE OF HIS ACTIVITY AS A MEMBER OF THE POLISH UNDERGROUND. FURTHER, THE MUTUAL FRIEND WE HAD TALKED ABOUT HAD TOLD ME THAT DIRECTOR NOWAK WAS HAVING DIFFICULTY IN OBTAINING PROOF OF HIS UNDERGROUND ACTIVITY IN 1940 FOR A DEFAMATION SUIT THAT HE WAS BRINGING AGAINST THE GERMAN NEWSPAPER. I SAID THAT THE WHOLE MATTER WAS UNFORTUNATE SINCE IF IT BECAME KNOWN IN THE US -- APPARENTLY NO ONE HAD HEARD ABOUT IT IN THE PAST -- THIS COULD HAVE ADVERSE EFFECTS ON RFE'S ABILITY TO OBTAIN FUNDS FROM THE CONGRESS (IN TALKING ABOUT THE LOCALE OF THE CASE, WE SWITCHED TO GERMAN, BUT ONLY FOR A SENTENCE OR TWO SINCE JACK (SEYMOUR) DOES NOT KNOW GERMAN). KISIELESKI WAS QUICK TO POINT OUT NOWAK'S MANY SERVICES TO POLAND, AND I AGREED WITH HIM THAT THESE WERE MANY INDEED. I EXPRESSED MY PERSONAL CONVICTION THAT DIRECTOR NOWAK WOULD BE ABLE TO CLEAR THE MATTER UP.

B. RETURNING TO MY INTEREST IN HOW RFE, IN HIS OPINION, MIGHT DO A BETTER JOB, I RECALLED THAT THE HUNGARIAN SERVICE HAD A POLICY OF FAINT PRAISE AND THAT IT WAS GAINING LISTENERS. MR. KISIELEWSKI DIS-AGREED THAT THIS MIGHT BE AN EFFECTIVE TECHNIQUE IN POLAND'S CASE AND WE LEFT IT THERE AND WENT ON TO OTHER TOPICS (SEE JACK'S SEPTEMBER 19 MEMCON).

C. COMMENT: AT NO TIME WERE VOICES RAISED. MR. KISIELEWSKI ARGUED STRONGLY FOR NO CHANGE IN RFE'S BROADCASTING TECHNIQUE AND I VALUED HIS JUDGEMENT. I DID NOT ENGAGE IN PERSONAL ATTACKS ON DIRECTOR NOWAK. I KNEW THAT KISIELEWSKI WAS A PERSONAL FRIEND OF HIS. I DID NOT RECOUNT TO KISIELEWSKI ANYTHING THAT WAS NOT IN PUBLIC PRINT NOR DID I SAY ANYTHING THAT I HAVE NOT SAID

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TO FRIENDS OF MINE WHOM I KNOW ARE ALSO CLOSE TO MR. NOWAK. MY CONCERN WAS AND IS ABOUT POSSIBLE ADVERSE EFFECTS TO RFE FUNDING WHICH I WOULD DEPORE, GIVEN MY TWO YEARS OF FIGHTING TO KEEP RFE IN EXISTENCE, IF MEMBERS OF CONGRESS WERE TO BECOME SEIZED WITH THE PROBLEM OF DIRECTOR NOWAK'S WARTIME ACTIVITIES. END TEXT.

DAVIES

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PROPAGANDA, RADIO BROADCASTING, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 DEC 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975WARSAW08238
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X4
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750444-0561
From: WARSAW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751221/aaaaarvw.tel
Line Count: 115
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 75 WARSAW 8236
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11 JUN 2003 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <21 OCT 2003 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BRZEZINSKI-GRIFFITH LETTER TO THE SECRETARY OF OCTOBER 31, 1975
TAGS: PROP, PL, RFE, (KISIELEWSKI, STEFAN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006